



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 8, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

"The concept of 'cost avoidance' to our County's safety net has been a primary rationale for investment of local dollars into programs and services geared towards ending homelessness. This concept makes logical sense, as the number of homeless we can refer into supportive housing and treatment programs is the same number you can divert from continual visits to the hospitals and stays in County jail. This in theory creates savings we could reinvest in the programs that have shown success. I understand that jurisdictions such as New York City and San Francisco have reported cost avoidances to their public health and jail system that translated into reinvestable savings along these lines.

"We are facing challenges to our County budget in the near future. I believe we should plan now to maximize the \$100 million dollars this Board invested in ending homeless in Los Angeles County through identification and possible reinvestment of cost savings to our safety net, rather than look to funding these efforts first with new infusions of County dollars."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Chief Executive Officer was instructed to work in coordination with the Director of Health Services, the Sheriff and other appropriate Departments to develop a clear methodology and formula for determining precisely how excessive costs to the County for providing health care and other social services to the homeless via the jails and emergency rooms could be avoided by implementing the programs established by the Homeless Prevention Initiative, and how savings to the County could be identified; and report back to the Board with the information prior to the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget Deliberations.

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